

sanctions against nine Belarusian state-owned enterprises and announced a new Executive order to increase sanctions on elements of the Lukashenka regime;

Whereas the Lukashenka regime has actively encouraged or forced at gunpoint more than 4,000 migrants from other countries to cross through Belarus into European Union member states Lithuania, Latvia, and Poland, amounting to people smuggling and obliging these countries to declare a state of emergency;

Whereas on June 9, 2021, the Committee on Foreign Relations of the Senate held a hearing regarding the political situation in Belarus, in which United States Ambassador to Belarus Julie Fisher testified that “Despite the oppression, the violence, and the turmoil that followed the events of the past year provide glimmers of hope. A new generation of brave Belarusians, with courageous women at the front, have emerged. They represent a Belarus determined to chart its own path. They represent a Belarus in which wearing a red and white dress, hanging a flag, or playing a particular song will not result in torture, forced confessions, or even death.”;

Whereas on July 27, 2021, President Biden met Belarusian opposition leader Sviatlana Tsikhanouskaya at the White House and declared that “The United States stands with the people of Belarus in their quest for democracy and universal human rights.”;

Whereas on August 9, 2021, President Biden—

(1) announced an Executive order authorizing the imposition of blocking sanctions on certain sectors of the Belarus economy, including the potash, tobacco products, and construction sectors; and

(2) pursuant to such executive order and Executive Order 13405, issued additional sanctions on Belarusian individuals and entities, including Belaruskali (a state-owned potash fertilizer company) and the Belarus National Olympic Committee; and

Whereas Belarusian opposition leader Sviatlana Tsikhanouskaya continues to represent the widely shared desire of the Belarusian people for free and fair elections and democracy: Now, therefore, be it

*Resolved*, That the Senate—

(1) continues, on the first anniversary of the illegitimate presidential election in Belarus on August 9, 2020, to refuse to recognize Alyaksandr Lukashenka as the legitimately elected leader of Belarus;

(2) condemns Lukashenka’s ongoing crackdown on members of the pro-democracy movement, senior members of the Coordination Council, peaceful protesters, employees from state-owned enterprises participating in strikes, independent election observers, independent journalists and bloggers, medical professionals, professors, teachers, athletes, and cultural leaders;

(3) continues to call for the fulfillment by the Government of Belarus of Belarus’ freely undertaken obligations as an Organization for Security and Co-operation in Europe (OSCE) member and accept the OSCE’s offer to facilitate a national dialogue and fully participate in the OSCE process;

(4) calls for new presidential and parliamentary elections to be held in Belarus, conducted in a manner that is free and fair according to OSCE standards and under the supervision of OSCE observers and independent domestic observers;

(5) welcomes the United States Government’s close coordination with the European Union, the United Kingdom, Canada, other allied and partner countries, and international organizations to promote the principles of democracy, the rule of law, and human rights in Belarus and encourages con-

tinued coordination to apply maximal pressure on the Lukashenka regime;

(6) continues to call for the immediate release, without preconditions, of all political prisoners in Belarus;

(7) calls for the unconditional release of all political prisoners and journalists detained on dubious charges, including opposition candidates Sergei Tikhanovsky and Viktor Babaryka, pro-democracy activist Maria Kalesnikava, and Radio Free Europe/Radio Liberty journalists Ihar Losik, Aleh Hruzdilovich, and Andrey Kuznechyk;

(8) condemns the forced diversion of Ryanair Flight 4978 to arrest Raman Pratasevich and his partner Sofia Sapega, which violated international civil aviation law and risked the lives of innocent passengers and crew, and calls for their immediate unconditional release;

(9) commends the bravery of Belarusians who have created innovative ways to protest Lukashenka’s autocracy and applauds the Belarusian diaspora’s efforts to maintain international focus on the deteriorating political situation;

(10) lauds the extraordinary support offered by the Governments of Lithuania, Ukraine, and Poland to support the people of Belarus, including support for the political opposition, accommodation of political refugees, and backing a free media;

(11) calls on the Lukashenka regime to immediately halt exploiting and instrumentalizing migrants and to stop directing individuals to the borders of Lithuania, Latvia, and Poland;

(12) welcomes the Executive order announced on August 9, 2021, that applies additional sanctions on the Lukashenka regime and urges the Biden Administration to consider further tools at its disposal to support democracy in Belarus;

(13) welcomes the European Union sanctions imposed on the Lukashenka regime and urges the United States to continue to coordinate additional measures with the European Union; and

(14) emphasizes that the United States supports the people of Belarus in their quest to maintain their sovereignty, choose their own leadership, and live in freedom, and recognizes the extensive efforts of the Belarusian opposition to coordinate efforts with the United States, the European Union, the OSCE, and the United Nations to bring free and fair elections to its people.

#### CONGRATULATING THE UNIVERSITY OF GEORGIA BULLDOGS FOOTBALL TEAM FOR WINNING THE 2022 NATIONAL COLLEGIATE ATHLETIC ASSOCIATION COLLEGE FOOTBALL PLAYOFF NATIONAL CHAMPIONSHIP

Mr. MENENDEZ. Madam President, I ask unanimous consent that the Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation be discharged from further consideration, and the Senate now proceed to S. Res. 496.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The clerk will report.

The legislative clerk read as follows:

A resolution (S. Res. 496) congratulating the University of Georgia Bulldogs football team for winning the 2022 National Collegiate Athletic Association College Football Playoff National Championship.

There being no objection, the committee was discharged, and the Senate proceeded to consider the resolution.

Mr. MENENDEZ. I ask unanimous consent that the Ossoff substitute

amendment at the desk to the resolution be agreed to; that the resolution, as amended, be agreed to; that the preamble be agreed to; and that the motions to reconsider be considered made and laid upon the table.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Without objection, it is so ordered.

The amendment (No. 4922), in the nature of a substitute, was agreed to, as follows:

(Purpose: In the nature of a substitute)

Strike all after the resolving clause and insert the following: “That the Senate—

(1) congratulates the University of Georgia Bulldogs football team for a great season and winning the 2022 National Collegiate Athletic Association College Football Playoff National Championship game;

(2) recognizes the achievements of all players, coaches, and staff who contributed to the championship season; and

(3) respectfully requests that the Secretary of the Senate transmit an enrolled copy of this resolution to—

(A) the President of the University of Georgia, Jere Morehead;

(B) the Athletic Director of the University of Georgia, Josh Brooks; and

(C) the Head Coach of the University of Georgia Bulldogs football team, Kirby Smart.

The resolution (S. Res. 496), as amended, was agreed to.

The preamble was agreed to.

The resolution, as amended, with its preamble reads as follows:

S. RES. 496

Whereas the University of Georgia Bulldogs football team (referred to in this preamble as the “Georgia Bulldogs”) went 14-1 during the 2021 college football season and won the 2022 National Collegiate Athletic Association College Football Playoff National Championship (referred to in this preamble as the “2022 National Championship”), defeating the University of Alabama Crimson Tide by a score of 33 to 18 at the Lucas Oil Stadium in Indianapolis, Indiana, on January 10, 2022;

Whereas this victory marks the first college football national championship for the University of Georgia since the 1980 college football season and its third national championship overall;

Whereas the 2022 National Championship was the 59th football bowl appearance and the 34th football bowl victory for the University of Georgia;

Whereas the 2021–2022 Georgia Bulldogs achieved a 14-1 overall record for the season, the most single-season wins in the history of the University of Georgia football program;

Whereas the 2021–2022 defensive unit for the Georgia Bulldogs allowed on average only 10.2 points and 153 opposing yards per game, making it one of the most dominant defensive units in the history of college football;

Whereas the 2021–2022 Georgia Bulldogs overcame a loss in the Southeastern Conference Championship to the University of Alabama on December 4, 2021, achieving a historic victory over the University of Alabama in the 2022 National Championship;

Whereas Georgia Bulldogs quarterback and Blackshear, Georgia, native Stetson Bennett IV, a former walk-on player and junior college transfer, demonstrated tremendous leadership and skill throughout the 2021 college football season, and was named the 2022 National Championship Offensive Player of the Game;

Whereas Georgia Bulldogs defensive back, Lewis Cine, was named the 2022 National Championship Defensive Player of the Game;

Whereas the University of Georgia head football coach, Kirby Smart, a University of Georgia alumnus and former Georgia Bulldogs defensive back, has now led his team to 5 consecutive Associated Press Top 10 finishes and the first national championship since the end of the 1980 college football season;

Whereas this victory extends the record of Coach Smart to 66 wins and 15 losses during his tenure as the 26th Football Head Coach at the University of Georgia, his first stint as a head coach;

Whereas members of the 2021–2022 Georgia Bulldogs have been honored by various awards throughout the 2021 college football season and during the post-season, including the 2021 Chuck Bednarik Award and Outland Trophy winner, Jordan Davis, and the 37th Dick Butkus Award winner, Nakobe Dean;

Whereas President Jere Morehead, Athletic Director Josh Brooks, and Coach Kirby Smart have emphasized the importance of academic success to the Georgia Bulldogs and all student-athletes at the University of Georgia; and

Whereas the 2021–2022 Georgia Bulldogs have brought great pride and honor to the University of Georgia, loyal fans of the Georgia Bulldogs, and the entire State of Georgia: Now, therefore, be it

*Resolved*, That the Senate—

(1) congratulates the University of Georgia Bulldogs football team for a great season and winning the 2022 National Collegiate Athletic Association College Football Playoff National Championship game;

(2) recognizes the achievements of all players, coaches, and staff who contributed to the championship season; and

(3) respectfully requests that the Secretary of the Senate transmit an enrolled copy of this resolution to—

(A) the President of the University of Georgia, Jere Morehead;

(B) the Athletic Director of the University of Georgia, Josh Brooks; and

(C) the Head Coach of the University of Georgia Bulldogs football team, Kirby Smart.

#### NATIONAL SCHOOL CHOICE WEEK

Mr. MENENDEZ. Madam President, I ask unanimous consent that the Senate proceed to the consideration of S. Res. 501, submitted earlier today.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The clerk will report the resolution by title.

The senior assistant legislative clerk read as follows:

A resolution (S. Res. 501) designating the week of January 23 through January 29, 2022, as “National School Choice Week”.

There being no objection, the Senate proceeded to consider the resolution.

Mr. MENENDEZ. I ask unanimous consent that the resolution be agreed to, that the preamble be agreed to, and that the motions to reconsider be considered made and laid upon the table with no intervening action or debate.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Without objection, it is so ordered.

The resolution (S. Res. 501) was agreed to.

The preamble was agreed to.

(The resolution, with its preamble, is printed in today’s RECORD under “Submitted Resolutions.”)

#### ACKNOWLEDGING AND COMMEMORATING THE WORLD WAR II WOMEN IN THE NAVY WHO SERVED IN THE WOMEN ACCEPTED FOR VOLUNTEER EMERGENCY SERVICES (“WAVES”)

Mr. MENENDEZ. Madam President, I ask unanimous consent that the Senate proceed to the immediate consideration of S. Res. 502, which was submitted earlier today.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The clerk will report the resolution by title.

The senior assistant legislative clerk read as follows:

A resolution (S. Res. 502) acknowledging and commemorating the World War II women in the Navy who served in the Women Accepted for Volunteer Emergency Services (“WAVES”).

There being no objection, the Senate proceeded to consider the resolution.

Mr. MENENDEZ. I further ask that the resolution be agreed to and that the motion to reconsider be considered made and laid upon the table with no intervening action or debate.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Without objection, it is so ordered.

The resolution (S. Res. 502) was agreed to.

(The resolution is printed in today’s RECORD under “Submitted Resolutions.”)

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The Senator from New Jersey.

#### IRAN

Mr. MENENDEZ. Madam President, for nearly 30 years, first as a member of the House Foreign Affairs Committee and, to this day, as chairman of the Senate Foreign Relations Committee, I have had the privilege of engaging in the most pressing foreign policy and national security issues facing our Nation.

While we are rightly focused on the crisis unfolding around Ukraine, we must not lose sight of how dangerously close Iran is to becoming a nuclear-armed state, for we know that a nuclear-armed Iran would pose an unacceptable threat to U.S. national security interests, to our allies in Europe, and to overall stability in the Middle East.

As someone who has followed Iran’s nuclear ambition for the better part of three decades, I am here today to raise concerns about the current round of negotiations over the Joint Comprehensive Plan of Action and Iran’s dangerously and rapidly escalating nuclear program that has put it on the brink of having enough material for a nuclear weapon. Three to four weeks—a month or less—is how long most analysts have concluded it would take Iran to produce enough fissile material for a nuclear bomb if they chose to do so. That is not a timeline we can accept.

That is why I am calling on the Biden administration and our international partners to exert more pressure on Iran to counter its nuclear pro-

gram, its missile program, and its dangerous behavior around the Middle East, including attacks on American personnel and assets.

Now, before I continue, let me set the record straight. While some have tried to paint me as belligerent to diplomacy or worse, I have always believed that multilateral, diplomatic negotiations from a position of strength are the best ways to address Iran’s nuclear program, and I have always advocated for a comprehensive diplomatic agreement that is long-lasting, fully verifiable, and with an enforceable snapback system of sanctions should Iran breach any terms.

It was for very specific reasons that I opposed the JCPOA back in 2015 as well as an underlying concern that I just could not shake, a sense that the deal itself at the time was the best case scenario, hinging on good-faith actors and overly optimistic outcomes without enough consideration for the worst case scenarios that might arise from the behavior of bad actors. Today, many of the concerns I expressed about the JCPOA back in August of 2015 are coming back to haunt us in the year 2022.

First and foremost, my overarching concern with the JCPOA was that it did not require the complete dismantlement of Iran’s nuclear infrastructure. Instead, it mothballed that infrastructure for 10 years, making it all too easy for Iran to resume its illicit nuclear program at a moment of its choosing.

The deal did not require Iran to destroy or fully decommission a single uranium enrichment centrifuge. In fact, over half of Iran’s operating centrifuges at the time were able to continue spinning at its Natanz facility. The remainder—more than 5,000 operational centrifuges and nearly 10,000 not yet operational—were to be merely disconnected. Instead of being completely removed, they were transferred to another hall at Natanz, where they could be quickly reinstalled to enrich uranium, which is exactly what we have seen happen over the past year, nor did the deal shut down or destroy the Fordow nuclear facility, which Iran constructed underneath a mountain to house its covert uranium enrichment infrastructure. Under the JCPOA, it was merely refurbished.

Now Iran is back in business at Fordow, spinning its most advanced centrifuges and enriching uranium to a higher level of purity than before it entered into the JCPOA.

In the 2 years since President Trump left the JCPOA, Iran has resumed its research and development into a range of centrifuges, making rapid improvements to their effectiveness—huge strides that we will never be able to roll back.

Today, Iran has more fissile material—2,500 kilograms—more advanced centrifuges, and a shorter breakout time—3 to 4 weeks—than it had in 2015. This is exactly why I was so concerned